IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An automated authentication handling system comprising:

an authentication server ~~operable~~ to:

establish a two-way trusted communication link with an authenticated user ; and

establish access for the authenticated user to a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.

2. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:

an identification engine configured to maintain collections of session assignments, each of said session assignment collections being associated with the client identifier.

3. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 2 wherein said identification engine ~~is operable to receive~~ receives client identifiers from said clients to establish authenticated users and responsive thereto to provide a user interface to access said application servers according to said associated session assignments.

4. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:

a communication initiator engine configured to establish the trusted communication link between said authenticated users and an application server on said list.

.5. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 3 wherein said authentication server includes:

a communication initiator engine configured to establish the trusted communication link defined to one of said session assignments between said authenticated users and said application server.

6. (Original) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said session assignments include data fields selected from the group consisting of session timeout and application access level.

7. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said client identifier includes a user id and password.

8. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes a processor under the control of software to:

receive an authentication signal from said client;

provide an application access interface to said client in response to said authentication signal; and

establish the trusted communication link between said client and an application server selected from said application access interface.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for automatically authenticating a client comprising the steps of:

providing an authentication server;

identifying clients to access a plurality of application servers by said authentication server;

establishing a two-way trusted communication link with an authenticated client; and

establishing access between a client and an application server selected from a list of

application servers associated with a client identifier.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step

includes:

providing session parameters for each of said identified clients for at least one of said

application servers.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step

includes:

providing a user interface to said identified clients to access said application servers.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said establishing step includes:

using said session parameters to establish said trusted communication link.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11 wherein said user interface

includes a listing of application servers and said establishing steps are initiated following a

selection of an application server by a user from said user interface.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of

application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication for access.